FRIENDLY SOCIETIES (IRELAND).

REPORT of the PROCEEDINGS of the REGISTRAR of FRIENDLY SOCIETIES in *Ireland*, and of the Principal Matters connected with Friendly Societies, which have come under his Cognizance during the past Year.

THE number of rules and amendments of rules registered during the year 1857 was as follows:—

New rules:—	
Registered under 9th section of the 18 & 19 Vict. cap. 63 -	76
Registered under 11th section of the 18 & 19 Vict. cap. 63 -	1
TOTAL new rules - - -	77
Amendments of rules - - - - - - - - -	40

The rules of two societies were deposited with the registrar, in accordance with the provisions of the 44th section of the same Act.

The registrar has been at great pains to induce the various societies established throughout Ireland to forward the returns required by the 45th section of the 18 & 19 Vict. cap. 63. In the majority of cases the neglecting to furnish these returns had become habitual. In some it did not appear that such returns had ever been furnished, and as there had been no formal registry book of Friendly Societies heretofore kept, the registrar had no means of ascertaining what societies were in default, and no penalty being attached to neglect in furnishing such returns, it is impossible to enforce their punctual transmission.

Circulars were sent by the registrar at the commencement of the present year to every society whose rules had been deposited with the registrar; and, in addition to this, advertisements, calling upon Friendly Societies to furnish their returns, were inserted in the principal provincial newspapers, and handbills were extensively posted in Dublin, Cork, Belfast, and Limerick, and affixed at the police stations in many of the smaller towns, calling the attention of Friendly Societies to the provisions of the above statute. These means have proved so far successful that returns have been sent in by 327 societies. Of these, 222 are from "sickness and mortality" societies: 71 from loan societies; seven from building societies; and eight from annuity societies.

In addition to these, 19 returns have been sent in, which, either from the omitting to mention the name of the society to which they refer, or from some other reason rendering them unintelligible, the registrar finds himself unable to classify.

It appears that the 222 sickness and mortality societies reckon 18,371 members, the greatest number in any one society being 1,000 and the least 10.

The entire income of these societies for the year 1857 amounted to 22,969 *l.*, while their entire expenditure, under the heads of "payments in sickness," "payments for burials," and "working expenses of society," amounted to no more than 8,819 *l.* 19 *s.* 6 *d.* This remarkable disproportion between the income and the expenditure is usually equalised each year by a division of the surplus profits amongst the members,—a practice which, in the registrar's opinion, tends greatly to interfere with the usefulness and sound working of these societies in those objects for which they are professedly established.

The circulars which were issued, as before mentioned, contained several special queries with respect to particulars of management, as well as to the general condition of each society. The answers which have been given to these enable the registrar

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registrar to state that, with scarcely an exception, *no* difference is made in the amount of contributions paid by members by reason of their different ages; and further, that in many instances no treasurer has been appointed, notwithstanding the provision to that effect always inserted in the rules; while, in some cases, the answer has been, that there was a treasurer appointed, but that he had not been required to give the security which the Act requires.

The returns from the loan, building, and annuity societies call for no particular comment. The greatest number of members in any society of the first of these classes is 320 (the annual income of this society being 6,537 *l.*), and the least seven.

(signed) *Edward Lysaght Griffin,*
Registrar of Friendly Societies in Ireland.

Dublin, 16 July 1858.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES (IRELAND).

REPORT

OF THE

REGISTRAR

OF

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES IN IRELAND,

FOR

1857.

(*Presented pursuant to Act* 18 & 19 *Vict. c.* 63, *s.* 45.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
20 *July* 1858.

449.

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